

California State Water Resources Control Board and Delta Flows

Delta Conservancy

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Overview

- Water Boards' Bay-Delta Processes
- Other Delta efforts
- Current Water Boards' Efforts

State Water Board

➤ State Water Resources Control Board's mission:

to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

➤ The Bay-Delta

Statewide water quality and water resource allocation issues converge

State Water Board

Water Quality Control Planning

- Water Quality Control Plans
- The Bay-Delta Plan or the...
 - Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary
- Beneficial uses, objectives, program of implementation, and monitoring
- Updated periodically
- Not self-implementing

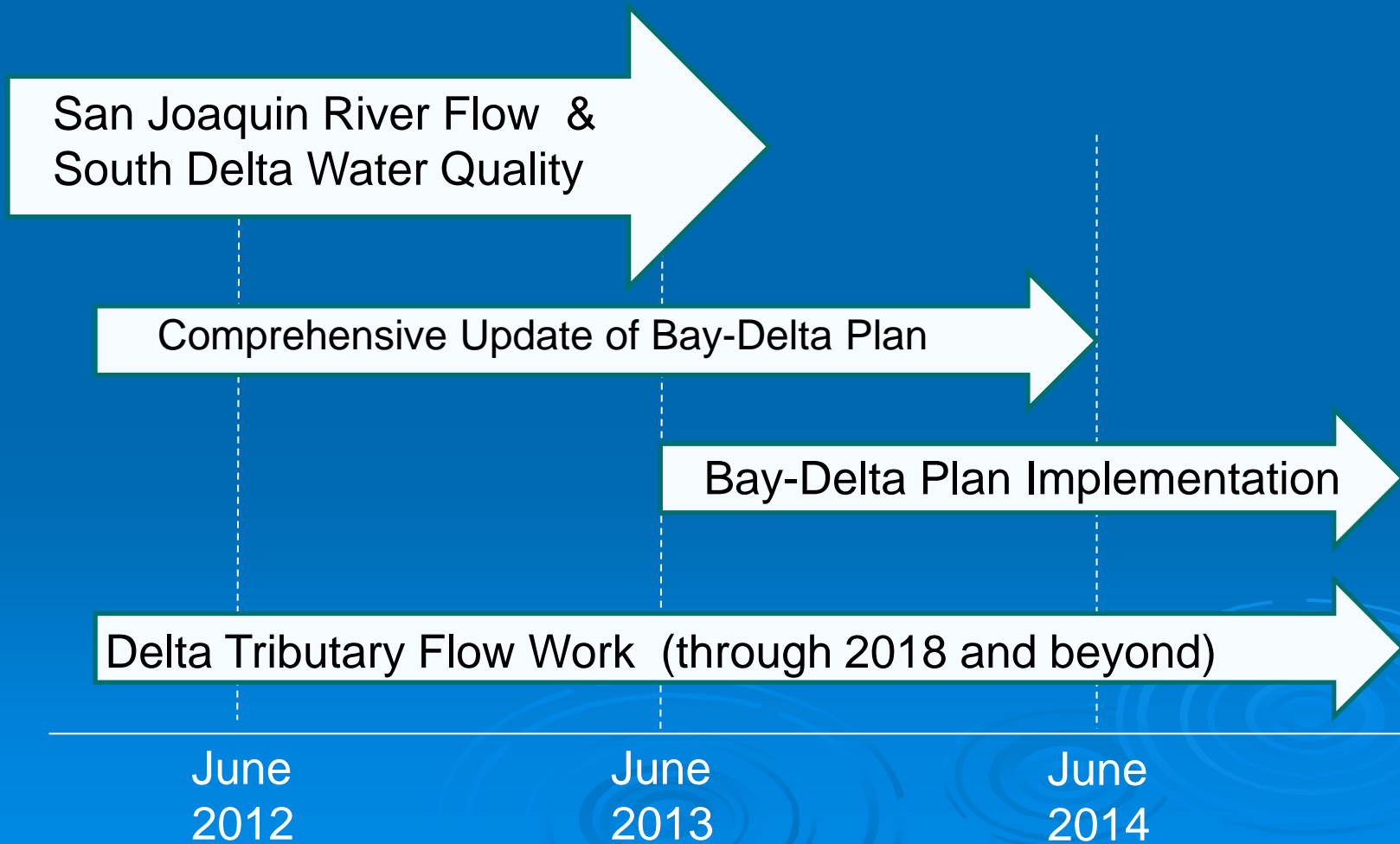
Other Plans for the Delta

- Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan
 - Overarching Delta Plan- coequal goals, includes land use
 - Review state actions for “consistency” with the plan
 - Key provision: SWB should develop and implement flow objectives for Delta watershed
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan
 - New point of diversion for SWP/CVP
 - Habitat conservation measures

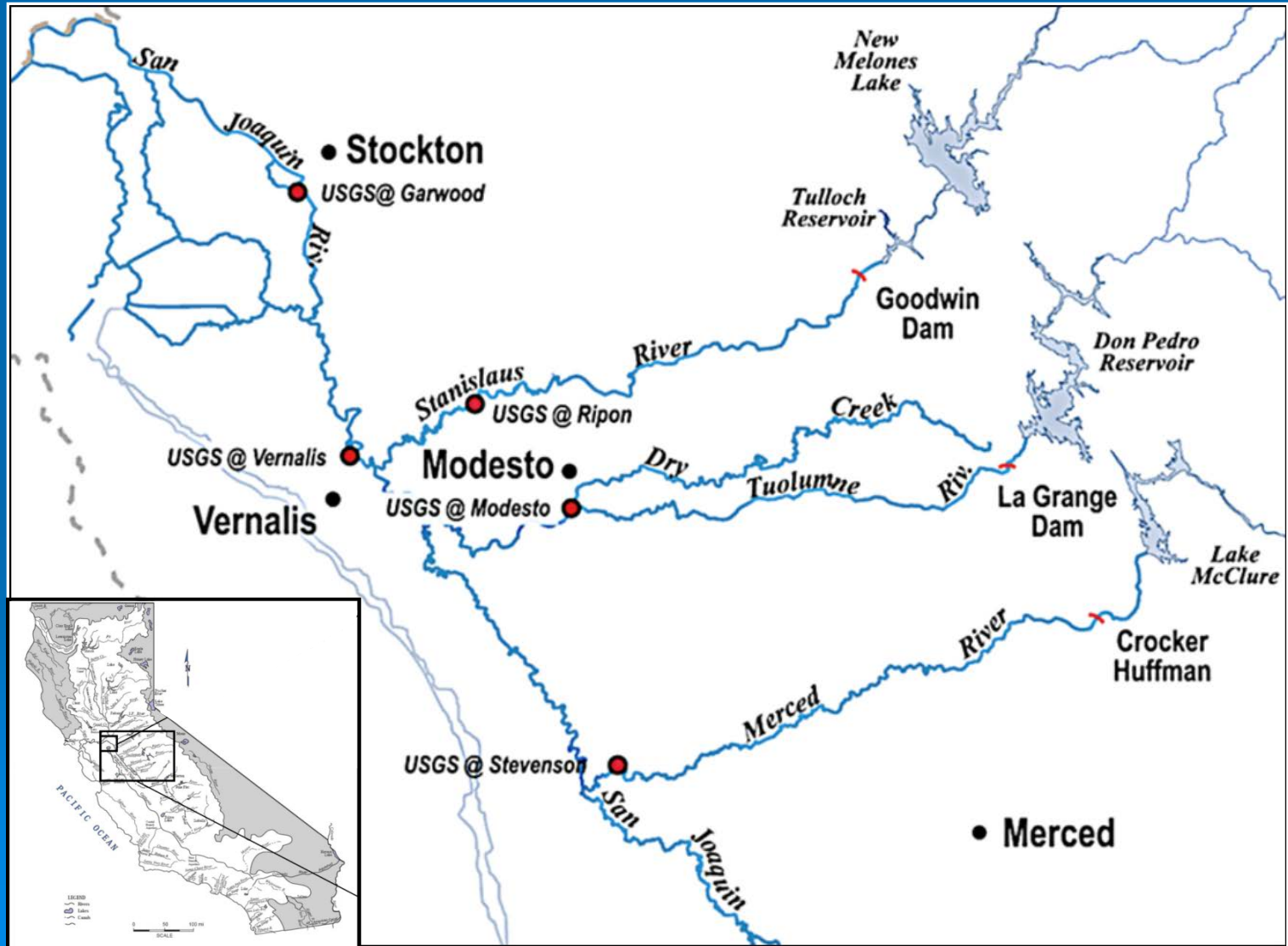
State Water Board's Bay-Delta Activities

- Phase 1: San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity objectives and program of implementation
- Phase 2: Comprehensive update of the rest of the Bay-Delta Plan
- Phase 3: Implement the Bay-Delta Plan through water rights
- Phase 4: Develop and implement flow objective for high priority Delta tributaries

Bay-Delta Processes Timeline



Phase 1 San Joaquin River Flow Proposal



Proposed Narrative Objective

“Maintain flow conditions from the San Joaquin River Watershed to the Delta at Vernalis, together with other reasonably controllable measures in the San Joaquin River Watershed, sufficient to support and maintain the natural production of viable native San Joaquin River watershed fish populations migrating through the Delta....



Proposed Narrative Objective

“Flow conditions that reasonably contribute toward maintaining viable native migratory San Joaquin River fish populations include, but may not be limited to, **flows that mimic the natural hydrographic conditions to which native fish species are adapted**, including the relative **magnitude, duration, timing, and spatial extent of flows** as they would naturally occur. Indicators of viability include abundance, spatial extent or distribution, genetic and life history diversity, migratory pathways, and productivity.”

Program of Implementation

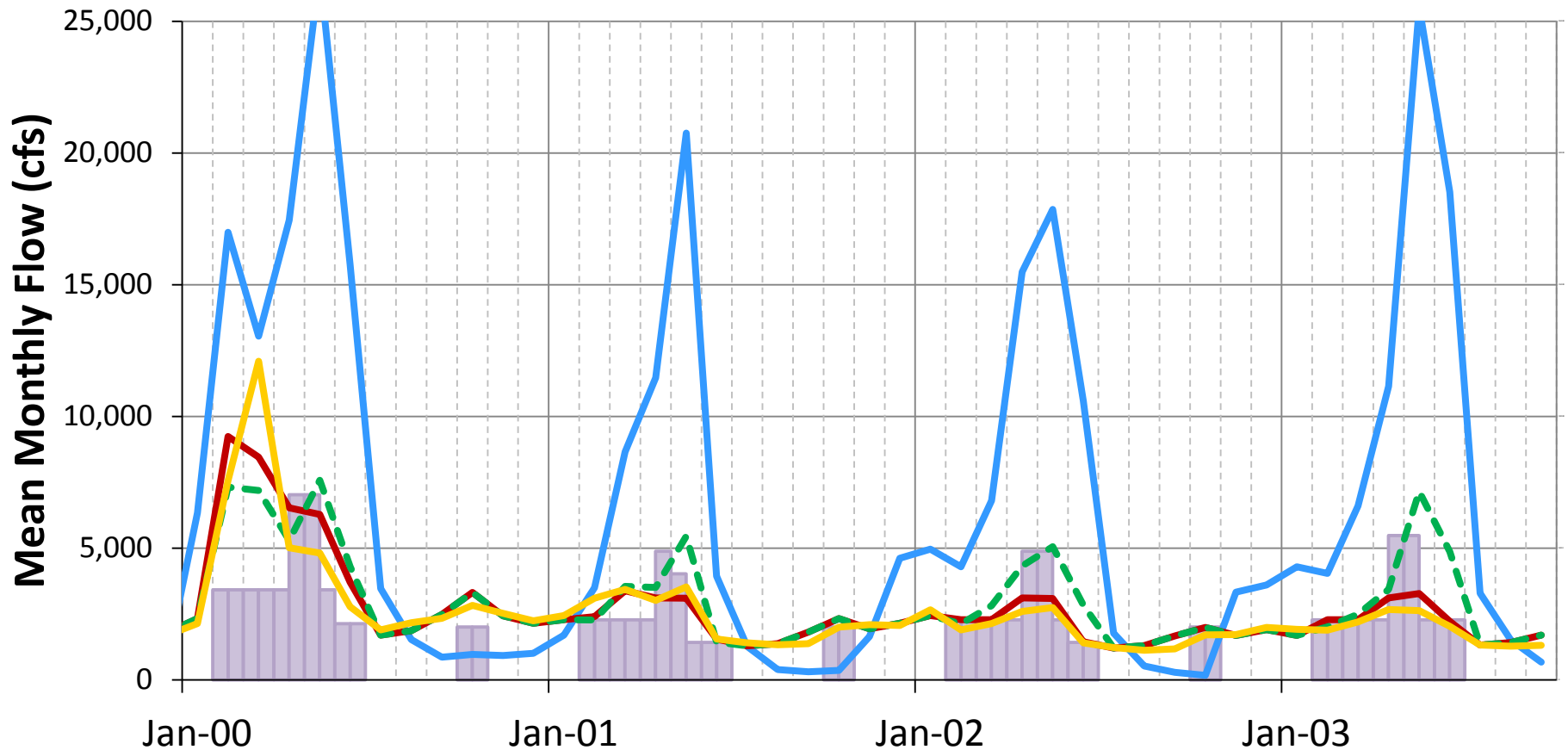
- February through June: 35 percent of unimpaired flow from the salmon bearing tributaries (the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus Rivers) on a 14-day running average unless otherwise approved by State Water Board through adaptive management...
- Notes:
 - not to exceed flood control levels
 - 1,000 cfs minimum base flow at Vernalis

Key Elements of the Proposal

- Requires tributary flows, not just Vernalis
- Narrative objectives implemented by percent of unimpaired flow
- Flows may be adaptively managed within established bounds and framework process
- Adaptive management does not require a Bay-Delta Plan update
- Recommends actions to other agencies for non-flow measures to support beneficial uses

San Joaquin near Vernalis

- Current Flow Objective
- Monthly Baseline (CALSIM)
- Monthly Observed (USGS)
- Monthly Unimpaired
- Monthly 35% Alternative (SWRCB)



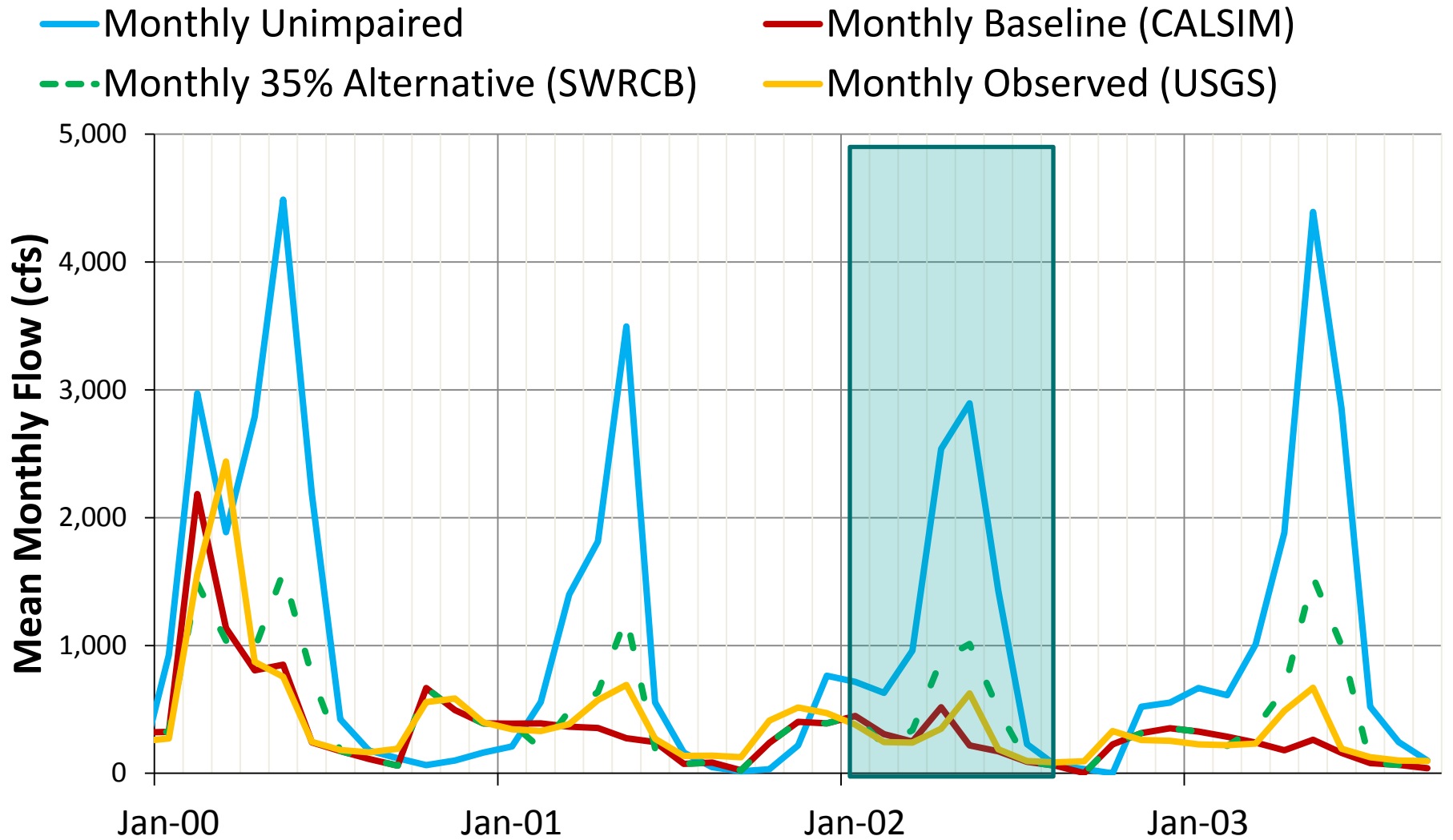
San Joaquin AN
60-20-20 Year Type:

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Merced at Stevenson



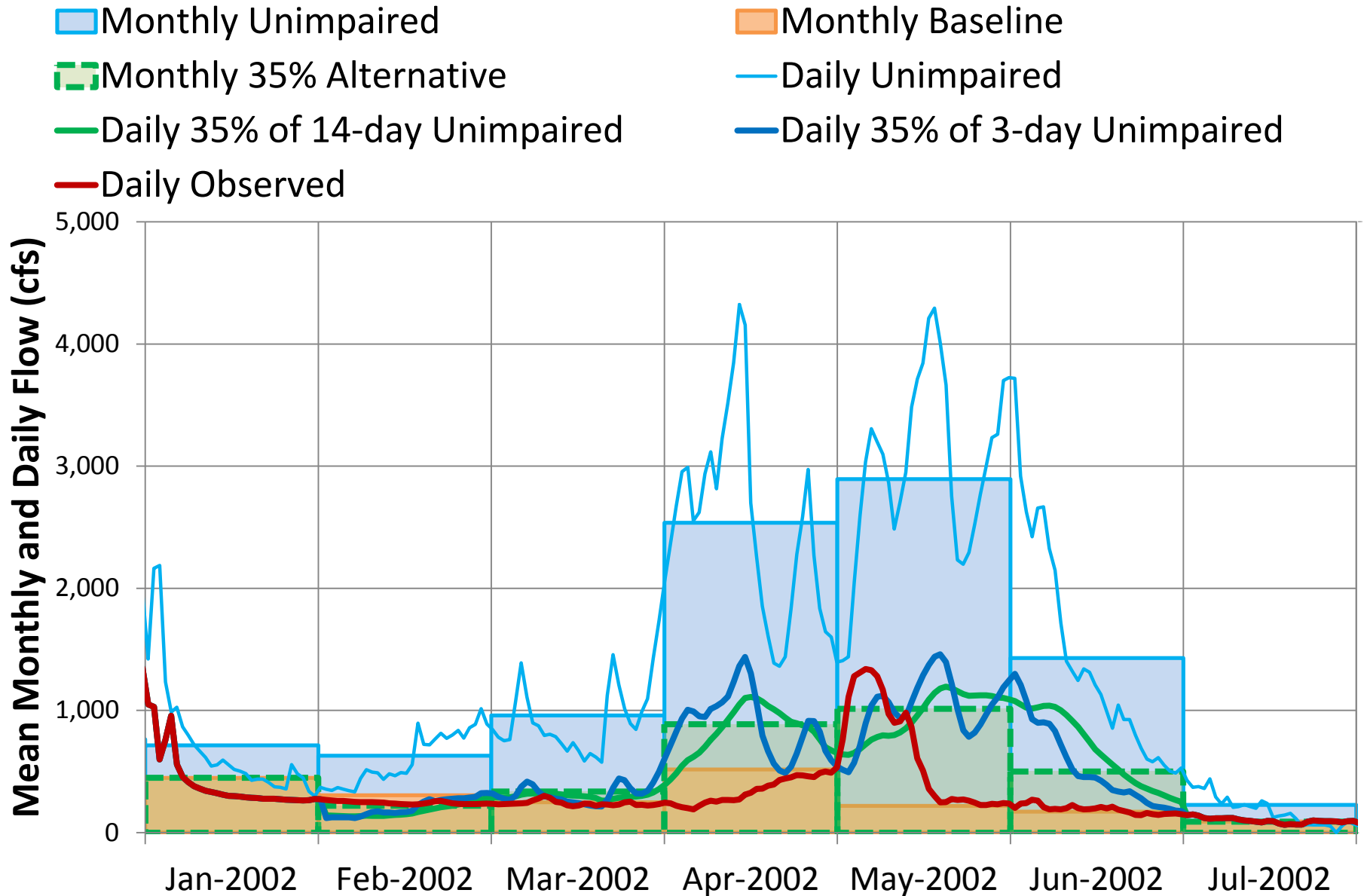
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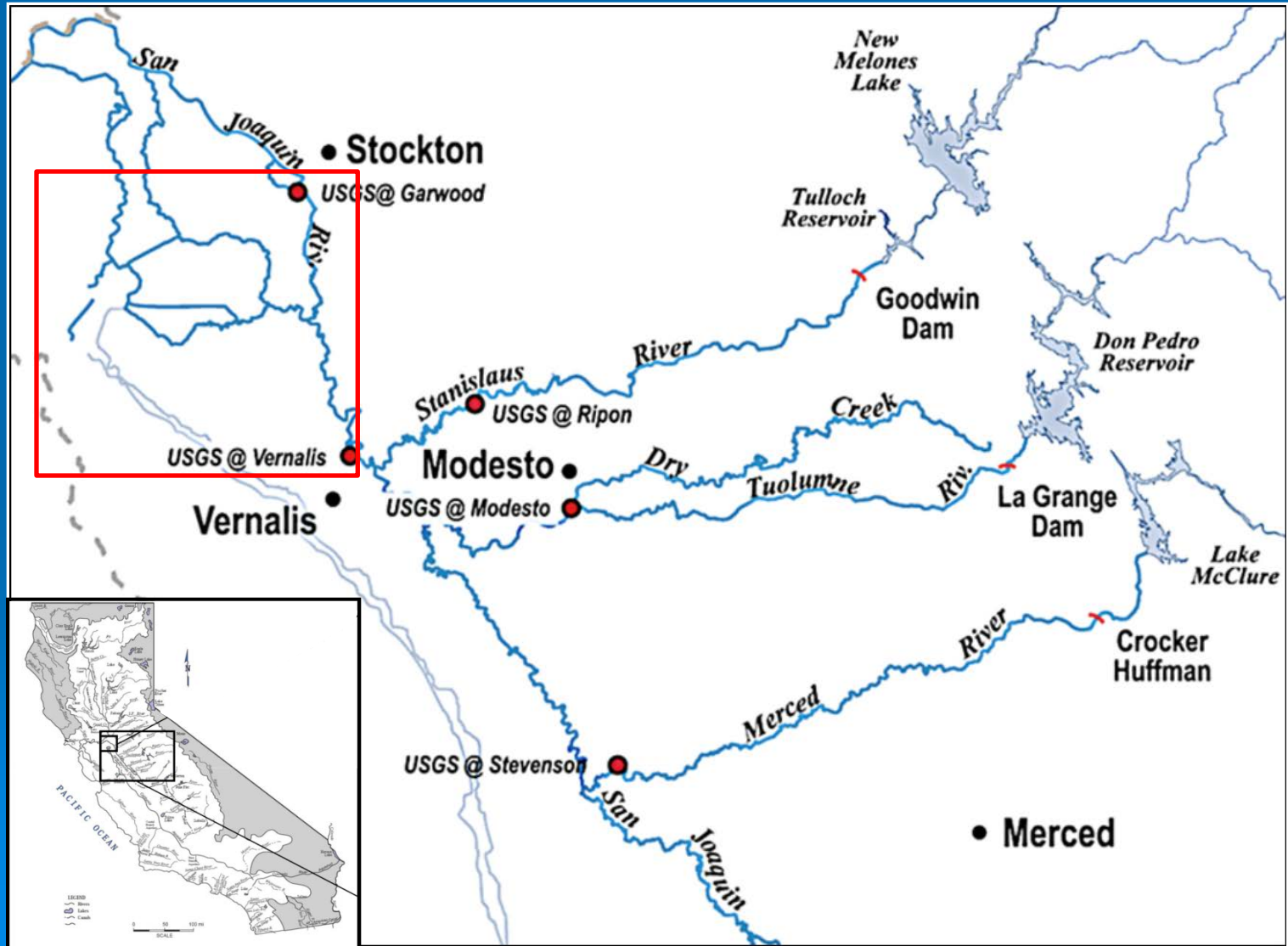
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Merced at Stevenson



Phase 1 Southern Delta Salinity Proposal



Southern Delta Salinity Proposal

- Scientific Review concludes that existing surface water salinity conditions in the southern Delta are suitable for irrigation of all agricultural crops
- Seasonal numeric salinity objectives in the southern Delta for April to August will change from 0.7 to 1.0 deciSiemens per meter (ds/m); no change from 1.0 dS/m for September through March

Phase 1: Next Steps

- Public Hearing to receive oral comments:
 - March 20, and 21
- Public comment period for draft SED:
 - Through noon March 29
- Draft final objectives, SED and written responses to comments:
 - June/July 2013
- State Water Board meeting to consider final draft SED and Bay-Delta Plan:
 - August/September 2013

Phase 2: Comprehensive Update

➤ Focus on:

- Delta outflow
- Sacramento River flow
- Exports/imports
- Delta Cross Channel Gate closures
- Suisun Marsh
- Reverse flows on Old/Middle River
- Floodplain habitat
- Monitoring and special studies program
- Program of implementation

The Legal Delta



Phase 2: Actions Completed

- Notice of Preparation: January 24, 2012
- Scoping Meeting: May 16, 2012
- Public Workshops, Fall 2012:
 - Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone
 - Bay-Delta Fishery Resources
 - Analytical Tools for Evaluating Water Supply, Hydrodynamic, and Hydropower Effects

Phase 2: Current Activities

- Consultants summary report of the Fall 2012 workshops available
- Informational Item on Next steps:
 - April 9 Board meeting

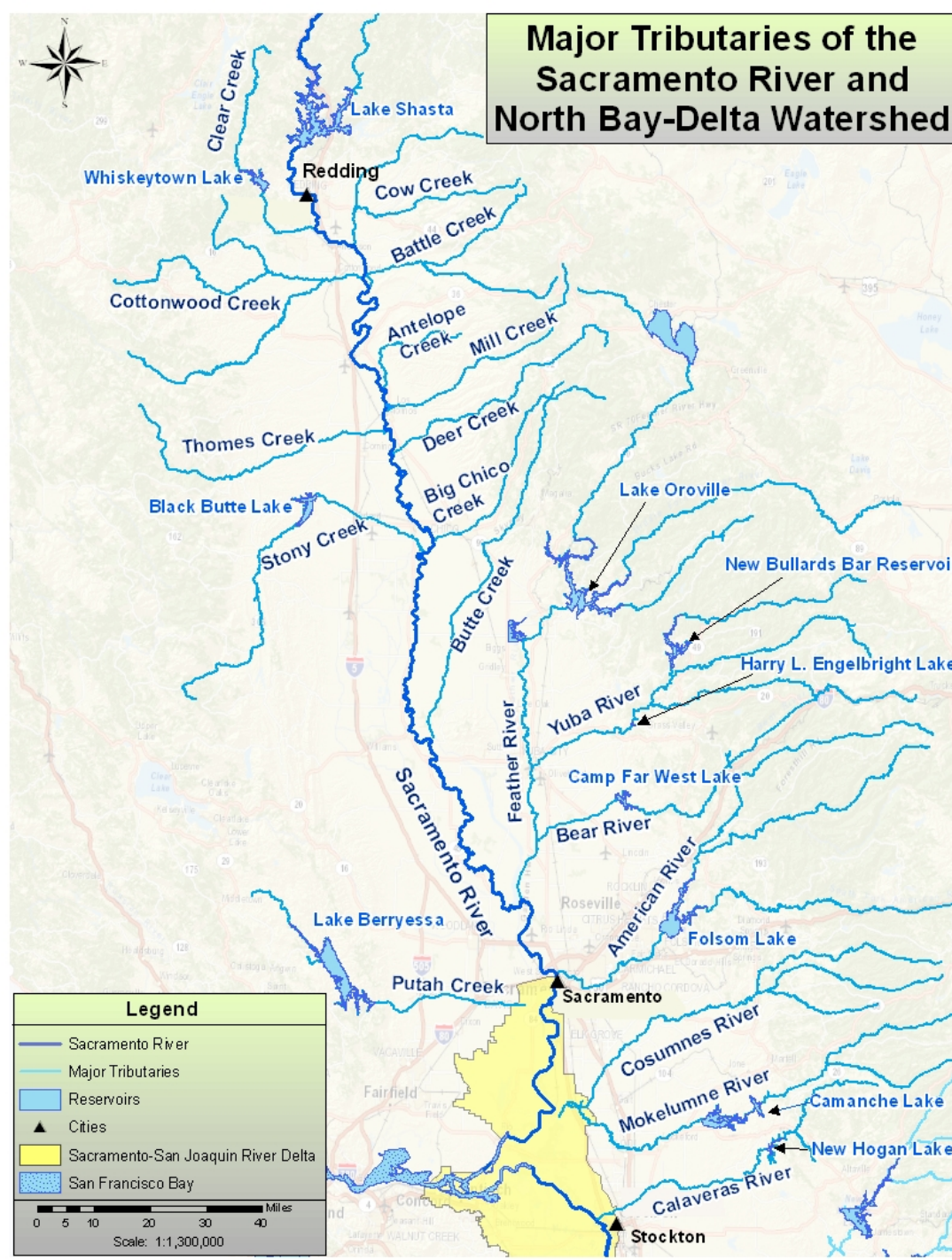
Phase 2: Related Activities

- Review BDCP and associated environmental documents to inform the Water Board's phase 2 effort
- Water rights proceeding to consider BDCP application for changed point of diversion

Phase 4: Flow Objectives for Priority Delta Tributaries

- Developing flow objectives to protect the public trust resources and other beneficial uses of water, such as agriculture, municipal, and hydropower uses
- Objectives will be tailored to each tributary based on:
 - Unique hydraulic/geomorphic characteristics
 - Public trust considerations
 - Beneficial uses of water

Major Tributaries of the Sacramento River and North Bay-Delta Watershed



Phase 4: Actions Completed

- *Instream Flow Studies for the Protection of Public Trust Resources: Prioritized Schedule and Estimate of Costs*
 - Report required by the Delta Reform Act of 2009
 - Released December 2010
- Consultation with fisheries resource agencies to identify high priority tributaries

Phase 4: Current Activities

- Coordinating with Delta Stewardship Council Science Program to identify methods to develop flow objectives
- Identifying stakeholders interested in collaborating with State Water Board to implement flow objectives

Questions?